pleased to state:

(a) whether raids were conducted on some petrol pumps in Varodara, Surat, Bharuch and Panchmahal districts in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome of the raids, and

(c) the number of petrol pumps riaded during each of the last three years and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Steps to increase the production of kerosene

1226. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the average production of Kerosene in the country at present;

(b) whether the kerosene produced at present is adequate to meet the requirements of the country;

(c) if not, the steps being taken to increase the production; and

(d) the alternative steps taken to meet the requirement of Kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) As against the consumption of about 8.69 MMT during 1993-94 the indigenous production was about 5.27 MMT.

(c) and (d) The deficit is met by import. Also, Government have decanalised the import of kerosene to be sold under parallel marketing scheme. The Government have also taken action to increase refining capacity in the country increase the availability of petroleum products inclusive of kerosene.

Issuance of industrial gas connections in Uttar Pradesh

1227. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial pipeline Natural Gas connections issued by Government of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the criteria adopted by Government for issuing such gas connections; and

(c) the number of applications received from Uttar Pradesh for such new connections during 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Sixteen such connections were given by Gas Authority of India Ltd.

(b) Allocations of natural gas are based generally on the imputed values with preference being given to the power, fertilizer and steel sectors.

(c) No new applications are being entertained as the available gas is fully allocated.

Reducing import of crude and petroleum products

1228. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to reduce the import of crude and petroleum products;

(b) if so, to what extent the import bill reduced during the last three years (year-wise);

(c) the target set for import during 1994-95; and

(d) the details thereof?